

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for authorizing a licensed activity associated with a software
2 program, the system comprising:

3 a license enforcement server associated with an operating system of a network-critical
4 machine, the network-critical machine being connected to an interconnected network;

5 at least one database associated with the license enforcement server;

6 at least one computation device connected to the interconnected network; and

7 at least one instruction set for communicating with the license enforcement server and
8 receiving a message from the license enforcement server indicating a state of authorization
9 associated with the licensed activity, the at least one instruction set being associated with the
10 at least one computational device.

1 2. The system of Claim 1 wherein the network-critical machine is a primary
2 domain control server.

1 3. The system of Claim 1 wherein the network-critical machine is an address
2 server.

1 4. The system of Claim 1, the system further comprising:

2 a second network-critical machine associated with a second license enforcement
3 server; and

4 a second database associated with the second license enforcement server.

1 5. The system of Claim 1 wherein the license enforcement server is integrated
2 with the operating system.

1 6. The system of Claim 1, the system further comprising a namespace tree, the
2 namespace tree uniquely identifying the licensed activity.

1 7. The system of Claim 1, the system further comprising:

2 at least one license enforcement gateway communicatively coupled to the license
3 enforcement server.

1 8. A license enforcement server associated with an operating system of a
2 network-critical machine, the license enforcement server comprising:

3 an instruction set for interfacing with at least one database associated with at least one
4 software license;

5 an instruction set for receiving a communication through an interconnected network
6 from at least one computation device connected to the interconnected network, the
7 communication being associated with a request for permission to perform a licensed activity
8 associated with a licensed software;

9 an instruction set for determining a state of permission to perform the licensed activity
10 associated with a licensed software; and

11 an instruction set for sending a message through the interconnected network to the
12 computation device, the message being associated with the state of permission to perform the
13 licensed activity.

1 9. The license enforcement server of Claim 7 wherein the license enforcement
2 server is integrated with the operating system of the network-critical machine.

1 10. The license enforcement server of Claim 7 wherein the network-critical
2 machine is a primary domain control server.

1 11. The license enforcement server of Claim 7 wherein the network-critical
2 machine is an address server.

1 12. The license enforcement server of Claim 7, the license enforcement server
2 further comprising:

3 a namespace tree associated with the at least one software license.

1 13. A computational device connected to an interconnected network, the
2 computational device comprising:

3 an instruction set for communicating with a license enforcement server associated
4 with an operating system of a network-critical machine, the communication comprising a
5 request for a permission to perform a licensed activity and a return message associated with a
6 status of the permission to perform the licensed activity; and

7 an instruction set for performing the licensed activity, the computational device
8 selectively performing the licensed activity using the instruction set for performing the
9 licensed activity.

1 14. The computational device of Claim 12 wherein the network-critical machine is
2 a primary domain control server.

1 15. The computational device of Claim 12 wherein the network-critical machine is
2 an address server.

1 16. A method for authorizing a licensed activity associated with a computational
2 device connected to an interconnected network, the method comprising:

3 poling a license enforcement server associated with the operating system of a
4 network-critical machine;

5 selectively determining the permissibility of the licensed activity associated with the
6 computational device connected to the interconnected network;

7 sending a message associated with the permissibility of the licensed activity to the
8 computational device; and

9 selectively performing the licensed activity.

1 17. The method of Claim 15 wherein the network-critical machine is a primary
2 domain control server

1 18. The method of Claim 15, wherein the network-critical machine is an address
2 server.

1 19. An operating system with an integrated license enforcement server, the operating
2 system comprising:

3 an instruction set for interfacing with at least one database associated with software
4 licenses;

5 an instruction set for receiving a communication through an interconnected network from
6 at least one computation device connected to the interconnected network, the communication
7 being associated with a request for permission to perform a licensed activity associated with a
8 licensed software;

9 an instruction set for determining a state of permission to perform the licensed activity
10 associated with a licensed software; and

11 an instruction set for sending a message through the interconnected network to the
12 computation device, the message being associated with the state of permission to perform the
13 licensed activity.

1 20. The operating system of Claim 18 wherein the operating system is associated with
2 a network-critical machine.

1 21. The operating system of Claim 18, the operating system further comprising:
2 a link conjoining the operability of the operating system to the operability of the licenses
3 enforcement server.

1 22. A method for acquiring a license to perform a licensed activity with a license
2 enforcement server, the license enforcement server being associated with a network-critical
3 machine, the method comprising:

4 selectively requesting a license from a remote system, the remote system
5 communicatively coupled to the license enforcement server associated with the network-critical
6 machine, the license establishing at least one condition for performing the licensed activity;

7 determining the availability of the license with the license enforcement server associated
8 with the network-critical machine; and

9 selectively authorizing the licensed activity based on the at least one condition for
10 performing the licensed activity established by the license.

1 23. The method of Claim 22 wherein the network-critical machine is a primary
2 domain control server.

1 24. The method of Claim 22 wherein the remote system is a license enforcement
2 gateway communicatively coupled with the license enforcement server associated with the
3 network-critical machine, the license enforcement gateway being communicatively coupled with
4 the network-critical machine through a global network.

1 25. The method of claim 22, the method further comprising:
2 receiving a request for permission to perform the licensed activity from a client device,
3 the request being received by the license enforcement server; and
4 determining the status of the license to perform the licensed activity.

1 26. The method of Claim 22 wherein the license enforcement server is integrated with
2 an operating system associated with the network-critical machine.
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